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FOREIGN LITERATURE.

PROFESSOR MULLER, of Schaffhausen is publishing a complete edition of the works of his late brother, the celebrated historian. It will begin with those not before published, the principle of which will be a Universal History, particularly of the European nations, from the earliest times to the year 1783. This will form three volumes. A selection of his critical analyses of various historical works, and of his letters, will be given.

Among the papers of the late celebrated Zoega, has been found a finished work in German, entitled, the "Topography of Rome." It is the fruit of twenty years residence, and a profound knowledge of every thing written on the subject, both in ancient and modern times, and of course will be an acceptable present to the public.

The ten Commandments, set to music, in the form of canons, by Haydn, were found among his papers after his death, and have been published.

Mr. K. Faber, keeper of the royal archives of Russia, is publishing a collection of valuable documents, under the title of Archives Prussiennes, or Interesting Facts of the History of Times past.

The Travels of Anacharsis, by Abbe Barthelemi, are well known; but not perhaps what gave rise to them. Being in Italy in 1755, and less attentive to the actual state of the cities he visited, than to their ancient splendour, he naturally adverted to that era, when they were emulous of the glory of pre-eminence in the sciences and arts. Hence he was led to the idea, that the account of a journey in this country, about the time of Leo X.,

and continued for a certain number of years, would exhibit one of the most interesting and useful views of the human intellect. Sensible, however, that his course of studies had not fitted him for the task, he preferred a tour through Greece, in the time of Philip of Macedon. His former plan has since been adopted, and a tour in Italy, under the pontificate of Leo X., has been published, which appears to be an interesting work. The supposed traveller is a young Swiss; and the work is the joint production of several literary men; in this resembling our Athenian Letters.

The Emperor Napoleon has taken under his immediate protection what remains of the antiquities of Rome; and in consequence, the consulta has ordered the two elegant temples, dedicated to Vesta and to Fortuna virilis, to be repaired without delay. The three principal apartments of the Baths of Titus, are likewise clearing out; and it has been decreed, to repair the remains of the temple of Antoninus and Faustina, the theatre of Marcellus, the portico of Octavia, the temple of Concord, that of Jupiter Stator, and other antiquities.

Canova is employed on two colossal statues of Napoleon, in bronze, one on foot, the other on horseback. The latter is said to be of larger dimensions than any one yet known, either ancient or modern. He has just finished a Venus, which is much admired, as is his groupe of dancing-girls.

Mons. Thorwaldsen, a Dane, who has lately been created a knight of the order of Dannebrog, has executed two bas-reliefs, which are spoken of in the highest terms. One is Hector reproaching the coward

dice of Paris, in the presence of Helen; the other, Prometheus creating men. Mr. Rauch too has made a sketch of a beautiful bas relief; the subject, Jason taking the golden fleece.

Dr. Seiffert, formerly physician to the Duke of Orleans, is said to have fallen a victim to his prejudice against the bark; which, it is supposed, would have cured the fever of which he died, but he could not be prevailed on to take it.

The building containing the museum of Natural History at Paris, has received an addition of four large halls, increasing it one third.

The Russian government has sent a party of men of science to explore the Carpathian mountains, and examine their natural productions.

The *Lectiones Atticæ de Διδασκαλία* Socratis give us great reason to regret the terrible explosion of the boat laden with gunpowder at Leyden, in 1807, in which the author, John Luzac, perished with all his valuable manuscripts. This work was nearly finished at the printer's, and thus escaped. All the arguments for and against the story of the bigamy of Socrates, are here brought forward with great candour, and terminated by an exposure of the awkwardness of the fabricators of this calumny. This is followed by an examination of the credit due to the history of the ancient philosophers, in which it is shown, that we must be very cautious in believing what has been said in particular by the peripatetics and epicureans of Socrates and Plato. But the sectarian spirit did not stop at calumny. About the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus, spurious works began to be forged, with a view to prove, that some of the most eminent persons of a certain sect, held doctrines either obnoxious or fashionable, according as it was the object

of the forger to exalt or defame the sect to which they belonged. On the other hand, the rhetoricians by profession, or sophists, and the demagogues of Greece, were on several accounts hostile to all the philosophers: and the comic poets, who were little esteemed by philosophers worthy of the name, and found among the pretenders to philosophy, striking objects of satire, had more reasons than one for entering the lists against them. Hence the apocryphal stories, unfounded charges, and absurd calumnies, that render so doubtful the philosophical history of remote ages.

Professor L. B. Francœur has published a complete course of pure mathematics, for the use of the pupils, of the Normal and Polytechnic schools; which will be found highly valuable, both by the teacher and the scholar. It is comprised in two volumes.

A French and Greek Dictionary, (we suppose modern Greek), by G. G. Zaukoglou, of Thessalonica, has been published at Paris.

Professor Vassalli Eandi, has undertaken to publish Annals of the Observatory of the Academy at Turin, with statistical notes relative to agriculture and physic. The first quarter 1809, consists of 114 pages in 4to. In future it is to be published half-yearly. The following is the plan of his work:—1. The days of the month; the moon's age, declination for every day, phases, apogee, and perigee; and height of the barometer, and of the thermometer, facing the south, and another facing the north, at sunrise, noon, and sunset. 2. Observations of the anemoscope, anemometer, hygrometer, hydrometer, and abmidometer, at the same periods. 3. State of the atmosphere at the same times. 4. Recapitulation of the meteorological observations for each month, with

the extraordinary phenomena, if any occur. 5. Comparison of these observations with meteorological proverbs, both general and relating to the state of the moon. 6. Natural epochs, namely, the appearance of birds of passage and insects, and rural observations relative to the operations of agriculture, the flowering of various plants, the harvesting of different productions, the devastations of insects, and the congress and births of domestic animals. 7. A comparison of these observations with agricultural proverbs, and the physical grounds of these proverbs. 8. Marriages and births. 9. Diseases and deaths. 10. Diseases and deaths of domestic animals. 11. Price currents of different articles, with the reasons of the fluctuations in their price. To these the editor intends to add, 1. Observations of the electrometer, magnetic needle, diaphanometer, cyanometer, photometer, and eudiometer. 2. A comparison of the meteorological aphorisms of Toaldo, Lamarck, and others, with the observations made. 3. Proceedings of the most skilful and active farmers, for every month, in mountainous districts, and in plains. 4. Journal of bees. 5. Remarks on the daily bill of mortality, and the age and condition of the deceased, particularly with regard to sudden deaths, and the character of prevalent and dangerous diseases. 6. Observations similar to those made at Turin, carefully registered, in the other departments of the 27th military division. 7. A comparison of these observations with similar ones made in the departments of Montblanc, and the maritime Alps, in the 28th military division. 8. Various other observations, tending to enlarge the boundaries of science. 9. Astronomical observations, as soon as the obser-

vatory is furnished with the necessary instruments.

Mons. A. de Theis has published a *Glossaire de Botanique*, or an *Etymological Dictionary* of all the names and terms that belong to the science of Botany. It is an 8vo. of nearly 600 pages, with two plates, representing the "harmonic arabo-French alphabet," invented by Mons. Langles, and the Anglo-Saxon alphabet.

Professor G. M. Raymond, director of the college of Chambéry, has written an excellent treatise on the important subject of education, under the title of the metaphysics of study, or inquiries concerning the present state of the methods employed in the study of literature and the sciences, and their influence with respect to the solidity of erudition. It is a small 8vo.

A lively and accurate description of Paris, has appeared under the title of *Letters on Paris*, or *Correspondence of M. *****, in the years 1806 and 1807.

The 2d number of the 2d volume of the *Museum of the science of antiquities*, published at Berlin, is chiefly occupied by a dissertation on the Rythm of the verses of Pindar, by Professor Boeckh. This is a valuable work, to which many of the most eminent writers in Germany contribute.

Mons. P. L. Ginguené, in a small volume of fables, in verse, has shown himself worthy a distinguished place among the French fabulists, if not equal to La Fontaine.

Mons. Oelsner's paper, that obtained the prize from the French Institute in 1803, on the effects of the religion of Mohammed, during the first three centuries of its establishment, on the minds, manners, and government of the nations among whom it prevailed, discusses with much precision, perspicu-

ity, and elegance, one of the most important eras in history. To the seclusion of women Mons. Oelsner imputes the inferiority of the Mohammedans in regard to civilization; and the little progress they have made in science does not appear to be owing to any aversion to it in the founder of their religion, as the following quotation from him shows :

"Impart knowledge; for he who teaches it, fears God, and he who desires it, worships him: he who discourses of it, praises the Lord; he who disputes for it, engages in a holy warfare; he who diffuses it, bestows alms on the ignorant; and he who possesses it becomes an object of regard and veneration,

"Knowledge is a shield against error and sin; it enlightens the road to Paradise; it is our confident in the desert, our companion on a journey, our society in solitude: it guides us through the pains and pleasures of life; it is an ornament to us in the eyes of our friends, and our buckler against our enemies.

"By it the Omnipotent exalts these men, whom he destines to decide on what is true, on what is becoming, on what is good. The angels covet the friendship of such men, and overshadow them with their wings. The monuments of such men alone remain; for their great actions serve as models, and are repeated by the exalted characters that imitate them.

"Knowledge is the true remedy for the infirmities of ignorance; the friendly torch, that consoles us in the night of injustice. By its assistance slaves have overleaped their walls, and scaled the summit of felicity, both in this world, and in the world to come.

"The study of letters is as meritorious as fasting; and teaching them, as prayer. Noble minds they inspire with still loftier sentiments, and they humanize the perverse."

In a pamphlet, entitled, an Historical and Critical Dissertation on the situation of the ancient City of Amagetobria, and the time of its destruction, Mons. Cl. Xav. Girault supposes, that Ponttailler on the Saône now occupies its place.

Some Philological Remarks on the Travels in China of Mons. de Guignes have been published at Berlin and Paris, under the assumed name of Synologus Berolinensis, in which that gentleman is accused of various mistakes. Mons. de Guignes has endeavoured to defend himself in Mons. Malte-Brun's *Annales des Voyages*, where in his turn he imputes to the author, whom he supposes to be Mons. Montucci, a superficial knowledge of the Chinese. We cannot say which of them is most in the right; but each would have been less in the wrong, had his tract exhibited less acrimony.

Dr. Ph. Petit-Radel has translated into elegant Latin verse, the poem of Longus, the sophist, entitled *Lesbian Pastorals*, or the *Loves of Daphnis and Chloe*. A literal translation is added, and a dissertation on pastoral poetry is prefixed to the poem.

A work of great importance in the history of the fine arts was commenced last May at Paris. It is entitled, *A History of the Arts, in their Remains, from their Decline in the 4th century, to their revival in the 16th*, intended as a continuation of the *History of the Arts among the Ancients*; by Mons. Seroux d'Agincourt. Animated, instead of being discouraged, by the difficulties of the undertaking; and aware, that the longer it was delayed, the less probability there would be of the task being ever accomplished, were it merely from the ravages of time; M. Agincourt devoted the whole of his life and fortune to this enterprise. Having directed his studies to this

point, and formed an ample collection of prints and original drawings, he spent three years in travelling in England, Flanders, Holland, part of Germany, and Italy, accompanied by artists, who made drawings under his own eye, of every thing he thought necessary for his purpose; and in 1780, fixed his abode at Rome. There he composed his work, and there all the plates have been finished. It is to be published in 24 parts, making 6 vols. folio. The price of each part 30 francs, (1*l.* 5*s.*) or on vellum paper 60. francs.

These will contain 73 plates of architecture, 48 of sculpture, and 204 of painting. The subjects will exceed 1400, of which upwards of 700 have never been published. The first plate of each series will exhibit specimens of ancient art; and the last, specimens of modern; by way of comparison. A part was to appear every month or six weeks. The first three parts of this work are already imported by De Boffe, London, who sells them to subscribers at £2. 2*s.* and £4. 4*s.* each part.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

On Artificial Meadows, and the Use of plaster of Paris, or Gypsum, as a manure.

IN the proceedings of the Society of Agriculture of the department of the Seine, the following observations occur: they may afford useful hints to our experimental farmers. We have not heard of gypsum being tried as a manure in this country, yet the experiment may deserve a trial, as gypsum, or alabaster, is found in several parts of the county of Antrim, especially in the hills near Belfast. Some years ago it was found at Mullicarton Hill, in the parish of Magheragall, in the vicinity of Lisburn.

The French Report thus proceeds:

We find under the head of artificial meadows, that in 1789, there was not a single artificial meadow; and yet such has been the rapidity with which they have been introduced, that in 1803, there were no fewer than 390 in the department of the Upper Saône alone. In Cham-

pagne, until lately, clover, saint-foi, and lucern, were never heard of: in the department of Gard, white and green crops are recurred to alternately, and for this purpose, artificial meadows are used instead of fallows. In the departments of Isere and Drome, the beneficial effects of artificial meadows have been obvious to every one, according to the account of the Senator Count Dedelay d'Agier more especially since the introduction of plaster as a manure. Perrin Dulac, sub-prefect of Sancerre, thus expresses himself on that subject: "I am not afraid to assert," says he, "that if a new Epimenides, after a sleep of forty years, were to cast his eyes on these countries, he would neither be able to recognize men or living creatures, or even the soil itself. Anterior to that epoch, there was no other manure than the dung of animals, no artificial meadows, no canals for the purpose of irrigation. The houses appertaining to the cultivators were so many huts, where the labourers